

12/4/2013

Brennan, Ross

From: Nagle, Deborah
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 5:54 PM
To: Webster, David; Anderson, Kate; Trulear, Brian; Thomas, Chris; Nuhfer, Mark; Pierard, Kevin; Hosch, Claudia; Curtis, Glenn; Rathbone, Colleen; Smith, DavidW; Sablad, Elizabeth; Lidgard, Michael; Sawyers, Andrew; Levine, MaryEllen; Pollins, Mark; Anderson, William; Bosma, Connie; Wiedeman, Allison; Laverty, Tom; Brennan, Ross; Zobrist, Marcus; Frazer, Brian
Cc: Frace, Sheila; Bathersfield, Nizanna; Shapiro, Mike; Penman, Crystal; Stoner, Nancy; Gitlin, Bonnie
Subject: The Chicago NPDES Branch Chief's Meeting ____ Final Agenda and Expectations
Attachments: Chicago NPDES Strategy Meeting_HLAgenda.doc; EPA BC FLYER.doc; NEW ULCC BROCHURE 2012.pdf; ULCC Fact Sheet.pdf

"The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence; it is the loss of direction."

With the quote above in mind -- I would like you to come to Chicago having thought about these two strategic questions:

- 1) How would you envision the NPDES program modernizing the way it does business over the next 5-10 years?
- 2) What three areas should we focus improvements to the program?

Agenda and the way forward: Attached is the agenda for our meeting in Chicago next week. Thank you for taking the time to speak with SRA facilitators Catherine Allen and Philipia Hillman last week. Your feedback (unattributed) helped shape the agenda. As you will see, Monday afternoon and Thursday morning we will discuss regional issues in our round robin format as well as specific program issues of mutual interest. Tuesday and Wednesday we will look strategically at our current challenges and design an approach for modernizing the NPDES program to meet 21st century realities. With a strategic direction for where we need to take the NPDES program, it will be easier to define our priorities for FY15 and 16 and a path forward around those priorities. In my previous email, I asked you to bring your thoughts about priorities for FY15. I recognize that our strategy discussions will better inform how we look at priorities. Therefore, I am not expecting you to have details on priority areas. The focus of this meeting is to set priorities to modernize how the NPDES program is implemented (e.g., permit process, oversight, data tools, etc.). This meeting is not about setting programmatic environmental priorities (e.g., stormwater, energy, nutrients, etc)

Expectations: I need you to think strategically — not in the weeds. I need you to be a leader — not a manager. I need you stretch — not stay in your comfort zone. But most of all, I need you to bring your passion for what you do to Chicago.

See you next week. I am excited. I hope you are too.

-Deborah

Other Logistical considerations:

- Tuesday night we have 5:30 reservations for pizza at Gino's East (521 South Dearborn). We hope everyone will be able to participate.
- I've attached two flyers for the Union League Club, as well as a copy of the hotel fact sheet we distributed earlier.
- The Region 5 conference room will have the usual comforts: flip charts, video conference capability, and a separate breakout room. Regrettably, Region 9 will not be able to attend, but the room will have audio-conference capability to allow David Smith and Elizabeth Sablad to call in.

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